

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A rubber composition for a tire tread comprising
100 parts by weight of a rubber component containing at least 5 % by
weight of natural rubber graft-copolymerized with an organic compound
having an unsaturated bond and/or epoxidized natural rubber; and
5 to 150 parts by weight of carbon black and/or silica with a nitrogen-
absorbing specific surface area of 100 to 300 m²/g.
2. The rubber composition for a tire tread of Claim 1, wherein
a silane coupling agent is contained in an amount of 1 to 20 % by weight
of said silica.
3. The rubber composition for a tire tread of Claim 1, wherein
protein within said natural rubber is contained in an amount of at most
0.10 % by weight converted to nitrogen content.
4. The rubber composition for a tire tread of Claim 2, wherein
said silane coupling agent fulfills the following formula (1)
$$(C_nH_{2n+1}O)_3-Si-(CH_2)_m-S_l-(CH_2)_m-Si-(C_nH_{2n+1}O)_3 \quad (1)$$

(in said formula (1), n is an integer of 1 to 3, m is an integer of 1 to 4, l is
an integer of 2 to 8 and the average value of l is 2.1 to 3.5).
5. A pneumatic tire comprising the rubber composition of
Claim 1 as a tread.